

Panels debate repeal of laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's Judiciary and Finance committees held a joint meeting Monday to pursue discussion on a draft law for repealing anti-Israeli legislation and ending the economic boycott with the enemy and heard the views of a number of Parliament members and experts invited to attend the meeting. Parliament Speaker Saad Hayel Sour, who attended the session, said after the meeting that the joint committee has scheduled another meeting for Sunday to hear other experts' views in this matter. These will include presidents of the chambers of commerce and industry as well as economists Fahed Al Faneq. During Monday's meeting several proposals were made which could be dealt with in the next session. "We are not in a hurry to finish this subject as we are keen on scrutinising every detail and every idea and cover the subject in all its aspects," added Mr. Sour. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh as well as the ministers of finance, industry and trade, justice and labour attended the committee meeting along with several deputies and His Majesty King Hussein's advisor on international law affairs.

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Jordanians vote in nationwide municipal elections today

Prime minister vows to ensure fair and free polls, urges citizens to vote and elect right candidates

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians vote today in the first nationwide municipal polls to elect local officials in what is seen as a test for the maturity of the Kingdom's electorate six years into a democratisation process.

On the eve of the elections, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker vowed that the government would do everything to ensure free and fair elections and called on voters to turn out en masse to exercise their democratic rights and enhance the democratisation process in the Kingdom.

At stake are 259 councils with nine members and a mayor each. Almost all political parties, licensed since the adoption of the Political Parties Law in 1992, are fielding candidates in the race for clout in local administration.

Also elected will be half the 40 members of the Greater Amman Municipal Council. The other 20 as well as a mayor will be

nominated by the government under the new Municipalities Law adopted in 1994.

It is the first time that Jordan is holding elections to all the municipal councils on the same day. The way was cleared for nationwide elections on the same day when the government dissolved all councils and appointed temporary committees last year ahead of polls following the enactment of the new law.

Centrists parties have come out in strength to field candidates. The mainstream Islamic party, the Islamic Action Front (IAF), says it has hand-picked only certain councils for its candidates, and leftist groups say they are trying their luck in the elections mainly to make the political presence felt.

Interviews with voters have indicated that the electorate was more oriented towards electing candidates who could serve them and improve services to their constituencies rather than choosing their

candidates on the basis of political ideology.

According to official figures, 3,393 candidates for council seats and 963 for mayoralty have registered for the elections in the 259 councils. But the actual race today will be for only 231 councils since 28 councils and their mayors were elected last week by acclamation, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Sharif Zeid, in a statement carried by Petra, said the municipal elections reflected Jordan's civilised and democratic life.

In an implicit reference to IAF claims that the government was trying to undermine the party in the elections, the prime minister emphasised the executive authority's commitment to ensure that better municipal services are offered by the elected councils, he said.

"Our country needs the combined efforts of various sectors, national and political forces, official and private organisations and pri-

comfortable atmosphere.

Sharif Zeid called on citizens to turn out for voting.

"It is the duty of every citizen to participate in this important event and help choose the right persons to serve their local community," said the prime minister. "Participating in the municipal elections is a national responsibility reflecting the Jordanian people's determination to contribute to the success of the democratic system and to ensure that better municipal services are offered by the elected councils," he said.

"Our country needs the combined efforts of various sectors, national and political forces, official and private organisations and pri-

wered to extend the voting period by another two hours if warranted. Results are expected late at night and early Wednesday.

Nearly 900,000 voters —

of an estimated electorate of 1.3 million — registered for the last parliamentary elections, held in 1993. Only about 750,000 of them actually cast their bal-

lots.

Many observers expect an average turnout, with some voters opting to take advantage of the holiday to do other business.

Main streets in Jordanian towns are decked with campaign banners of candidates ahead of today's municipal elections (Photo by Rama Hussein)

Israel insists on control of W. Bank water sources

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel insists on retaining control over most of the West Bank's water resources even after Palestinian autonomy is established throughout the area, Israel's agriculture minister said Monday. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) condemned the demand.

The dispute over water, one of the most precious resources in the Middle East, marked the latest snag in efforts to reach agreement on an Israeli troop withdrawal from West Bank towns and Palestinian elections by the end of July 25.

The Israeli position on water rights came out of discussions between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and water experts prior to planned talks with the PLO in Florence, Italy, this week.

Agriculture Minister Yacov Tsur told reporters that Israel would oppose any change in the way water is pumped out of the large aquifer under the West Bank.

The PLO official in Jerusalem termed the Israeli position "disgusting."

"It is not just," he said. "They are not the masters and we are not the slaves." He said that while Palestinians suffer constant water shortages, Israeli settlers in the West Bank have "everything" including swimming pools.

"We will not agree to this" (Continued on page 7)

Syria outlines terms for peace

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria announced Monday for the first time that it would be prepared to allow early warning stations on its territory as part of a peace deal on condition they were not manned by Israelis.

"If the installation of early warning stations is seen to be indispensable on both sides of the Syrian-Israeli border, these could be operated by international forces and friends," state radio said.

The comments came as U.S. envoy Dennis Ross arrived in Israel on a new mission to try to push forward military talks between Israel and Syria on security arrangements to accompany a pullback on the Golan Heights.

But the radio warned: "Syria refuses the presence of Israeli soldiers and officers on the Golan as Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin demands, for such a presence would signify the continued occupation of the plateau."

The radio commentator added any Israeli presence on the strategic Heights would be a "flagrant violation of Syrian sovereignty" and said "only peace can ensure security in the region."

Mr. Ross, the U.S. State Department's coordinator for the Middle East, was due to travel Tuesday to Damascus to prepare for a new round of talks in Washington between Israeli and Syrian military experts later this month.

The radio said negotiations last month in Washington between Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat Shehab and his Israeli counterpart Amnon Shahak "made some progress on certain points but did not reach arrangements for guaranteeing the security of the two sides in an equal and fair way."

A Syrian paper said Mr. Ross should seek concessions from Israel to ensure that progress in the talks was achieved during his latest tour.

The Rainbow Warrior II was towed away from the atoll by a French navy tug after defining the exclusion zone around the atoll by sailing directly towards it.

The environmental activists appeared to have been forced to leave faster than they wanted. Earlier a spokesman on board the ship said they were tired and expected to leave the atoll around 1700 GMT.

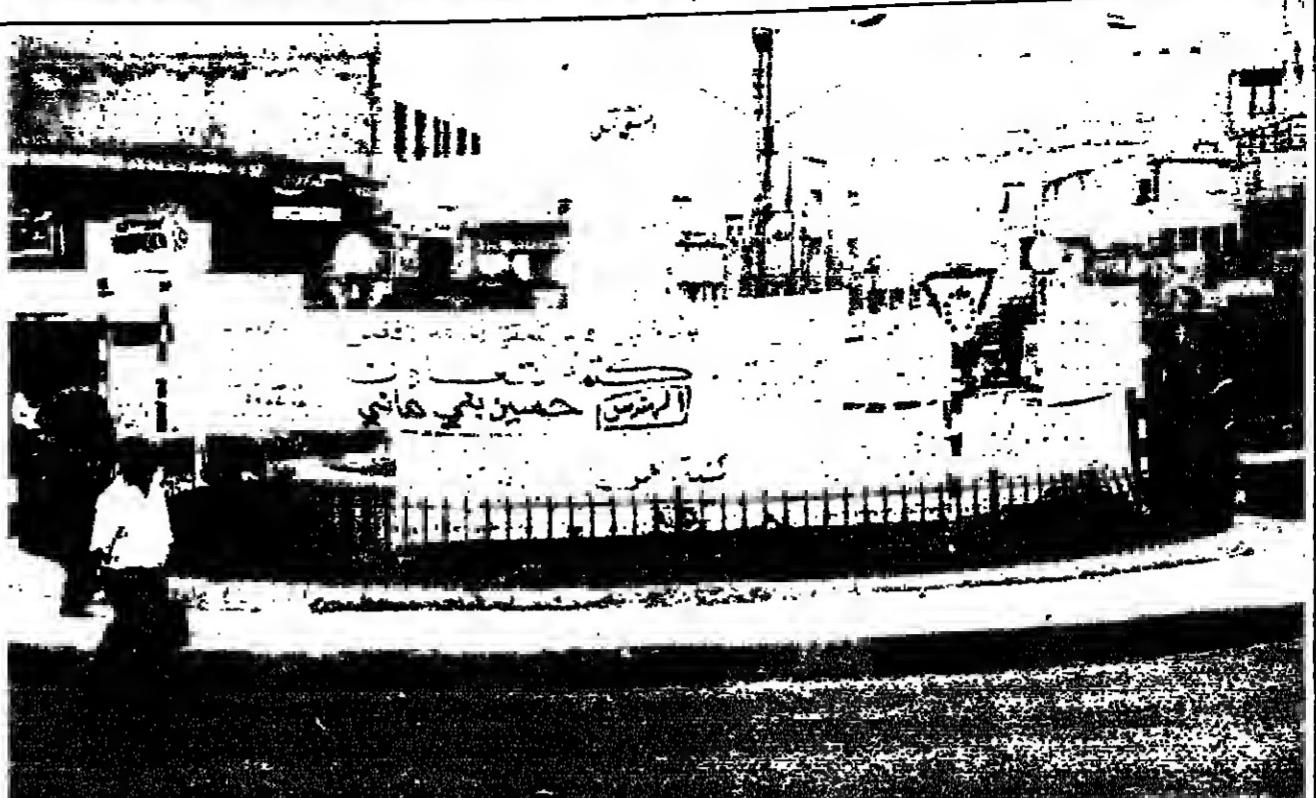
Earlier in the day crew members were hauled back

Regent receives Sudanese message

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter



ELECTION SPIRIT IN IRBID: The streets of the northern town of Irbid is bedecked with campaign banners of candidates in today's (Tuesday's) municipal elections (photos by Rana Hussein)



Authorities explain customs exemption procedures for taxis

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Department of Customs has defined the procedures for taxi owners to exchange their vehicles for custom-free cars or benefit from partial exemption from customs duties if they do not want to surrender their present vehicles.

The move to offer customs exemption for small public transport vehicles — regular taxis as well as service taxis running on specific routes — was approved by the government last month in line with Jordan's efforts to modernise its transport vehicles.

Many of Jordan's taxis and service cars are outmoded.

Some of them are 30 years old. The condition and appearance of many of them are also bad despite the enforcement of a regulation that all vehicles should be produced at the licensing department for close inspections once a year, at the time of renewing the vehicle license.

A circular sent by the Department of Customs to the concerned departments outlined the procedures that owners of taxis and service cars should follow to benefit from the government offer of customs duty exemption.

Under the procedures, the exemption is applicable only to cars with an engine capacity of not less than 1,600 cc. Cars with a passenger capacity of eight will be allowed to operate only on inter-city routes and to and from Queen Alia International Airport.

The circular spelled out the steps that owners should follow, from securing a first approval from the central licensing authorities to obtaining licence plates for the new cars.

Owners should surrender their old cars to the garages of the Vehicle Licensing Department at the Amman customs centre near the Jordan Radio and Television station or at the Zarqa Free Zone. Those who surrender the vehicles, subject to certain parameters concerning model and other factors, will get total exemption from customs duties, sales tax and all other charges.

According to official sources, the government intends to auction off the surrendered cars after changing

their licence plates to privately-owned plates. This has not been officially confirmed yet.

Those who do not want to surrender their cars but would like to dispose of the vehicle after dismantling them would get a 50 per cent exemption from customs duties on the new car. Sales tax and other charges will also be applied. The dismantling of the car — basically cutting the chassis of the vehicle — before it is returned to the owner should be carried out under the supervision of a technical committee representing the customs and vehicle licensing authorities.

The technical committee will also be in charge of inspecting new vehicles and ensuring that they conform to the specifications laid down by the authorities. One of the main conditions is that the new car should be of a current year or the immediately preceding or following year's model.

In simple terms, it means that for a taxi to be registered for the first time in 1995 it should be of a 1995, 1994 or 1996 model.

Amid the move to modernise small public transport vehicles, Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh has sought to put to rest reports that the government was contemplating a reduction in customs duties for all automobiles.

The reports had depressed the car market in the country as many potential buyers opted to put off their purchases awaiting the expected model.

Mr. Jardaneh is credited by Israel as being the driving force behind Britain's decision to end the arms embargo imposed after the invasion of Lebanon in 1982, thereby heralding a dramatic improvement in ties, including a visit by the Duke of Edinburgh, the first by a member of the British royal family.

Mr. Rifkind, who told Yediot Achronot that Britain's interests in the Arab World "cannot be ignored," has said that religion is "supremely irrelevant" to his post.

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Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday chairs a meeting of liaison officers of Arab non-governmental organisations preparing to participate in the U.N. World Conference on women in Beijing (Petra photo)

Princess Basma advises coordinated efforts for world conference on women

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday urged Arab non-governmental organisations (NGO) taking part in the U.N. World Conference on Women in Beijing this September to adopt joint stands and pool their efforts in order to be an influential force at the international event.

Addressing a meeting of liaison officers representing non-governmental organisations in 10 Arab states, the Princess said that the Beijing conference is of great importance to Arab women, and it is vital that the NGOs representing women align their potential and make their voice heard at the world meeting.

Held only eight weeks before the Beijing conference this meeting is of paramount importance since it would coordinate positions and draw up a joint strategy to be submitted to the conference, the Princess said.

She called on participants to draw up the work of committees taking part in workshops stemming from the conference and said that it was important for Arab delegations to coordinate their work not only before but also during the conference itself.

Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, a member of the Jordanian delegation to the conference, addressed the audience outlining the purpose of the world meeting.

Yemeni vocational training team arrives for talks on systems structure

VIMAN (Petra) — A Yemeni delegation led by Abdullah Jibari, head of the Vocational Training Establishment, arrived here Monday for a ten-day visit and discussion on cooperation in vocational training fields.

Accompanying Mr. Jibari are several Yemeni vocational training instructors who will attend training sessions at vocational training centres and meet with officials from the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) to discuss exchanges of expertise.

Mr. Jibari and his team will meet with VTC Director

General Ali Nasrallah to discuss vocational training programmes, the planning of training courses, studies related to promoting vocational training in Yemen and other relevant topics.

During the visit the team members will visit vocational training centres around the Kingdom to study their programmes and activities.

The team members will also take active part in two training courses for instructors.

One will involve the duties of the instructors, the structure of the vocational training system and guidance to trainees.

The other will focus on vocational training systems in Jordan, determining the needs of vocational training, and the local labour markets and their needs for skilled labour.

They will also make field trips to various VTC centres.

A VTC statement said that the Yemeni team's visit was part of the framework of an agreement for mutual cooperation in vocational and technical training signed by Yemen and Jordan which provided for the holding of training courses for instructors.

WHAT'S GOING ON

SEMINAR

"The Arab Book — Problems and Horizon," (in Arabic) with the participation of Maher Kayali, Fathi Al Bis, and Ilias Farkouh at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 7:00 p.m.

NEWS

*ABC News Highlights and the McNeil Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

*Paintings by Muhammed Bushnaq at Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis.

*Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat Al Funun Jabal Weibdeh.

*Paintings by Bernadette Gerges and Rita Gerges entitled "Lebanon Tomorrow," at the Royal Cultural Centre.

*Paintings by Jordanian Artist Muhammad Majali at the Phoenix Gallery of Culture and Arts, Garden Street.

*Works by Iraqi artist Tahija Hakim at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

*Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

*Works by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Gallery.

Jordan, Egypt sign accord to study feasibility of creating free trade zone

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Egypt Monday signed a trade protocol which provides for a feasibility study for the creation of a free trade zone between them.

A statement following the signing ceremony at the Ministry of Industry and Trade said that the free zone was essential in order to help the two countries cope with the requirements of new world developments in international economic and trade operations.

Under the terms of the protocol, which was signed by Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abu Ragheb and his Egyptian counterpart, Mahmoud Mohammad Mahmoud, the two countries have two months to prepare the study for the free zone.

The study will then be submitted to technical committees in the two countries before the settlement of a final agreement to be referred to the Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee for approval.

The protocol provides for preferential treatment in trade and economic cooperation between Egypt and Jordan, especially through the proposed free zone. The protocol also reaffirms the continuation of the former trade agreement between the two countries until it expires in October this year.

Upon signing the protocol, Mr. Abu Ragheb said that the accord constitutes one more step along the way for joint Arab action and, in particular, for economic integration between Cairo and Amman.

Strong relations between the two countries will serve as a good example to other Arab states, and the new protocol was certain to remove obstacles to free trade, the Egyptian minister said.

Following the signing of the protocol the two ministers called on Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, to brief him on the provisions of the accord.

Also Monday Mr. Mah-



Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abu Ragheb and visiting Egyptian Minister of Trade Mahmoud Mohammad Mahmoud Monday sign a trade protocol (Petra photo)

mond and his team called the Amman Chamber of Industry where they met with its president Khalid Abu Hassan and discussed ways to bolster trade and economic ties between the private sectors of Egypt and Jordan.

Mr. Abu Hassan was quoted as suggesting that the private sectors launch joint projects such as processing agricultural products, diversifying the national goods traded between the two countries, facilitating the passage of Jordanian trucks

to Egyptian territories, reducing fees levied on vehicles carrying national products and speeding up the process of granting letters of credit for import-export operations.

Mr. Abu Hassan also demanded that Jordan and Egypt exempt exchanged products from at least two thirds of the customs duty normally levied on them and suggested that the two countries cancel protocols that provide for certain products to be exempted from customs duty on and instead

Security court sets date for ruling on 'Arab Afghans' case

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The State Security Court on Monday set July 19 for issuing its ruling on a case involving the so-called Arab Afghans after concluding a review of verdicts it issued in December.

In its 20-minute session on Monday, the three-member bench, presided over by Brigadier Hafez Amin, received a report from prison authorities concerning one of the 18 convicts in the case and announced the date for the ruling.

The prison report was sought by the court to establish the status of the convict, who was under 18 years of age when he was sentenced in the case.

The ruling on July 19 comes in line with an order

from the Court of Cassation that the State Security Court review the Dec. 16 verdicts in the case, which stemmed from two bomb blasts and other attempted sabotage at public places in late 1993 and early 1994.

The explosions took place at cinema theatres showing pornographic movies. Also targeted in a foiled bomb attack was a store selling liquor.

The prosecution described the accused as Muslim zealots who wanted to eliminate "moral corruption" from the society.

Eighteen people were convicted of "conspiracy to commit terrorist attacks" and "illegal possession of weapons and explosives" in the case after a four-month trial; 11, including three

absentia, were sentenced to death, and seven were given jail terms ranging from 7.5 years to 20 years at hard labour. Seven others were cleared of all charges.

The Court of Cassation, which made an automatic review of the case in line with new regulations adopted in 1992, asked that the State Security Court take into account the testimonies of three witnesses that the court had ignored while issuing the verdicts.

It also asked that the status of the minor convict also be established.

The State Security Court began the review in May and heard the three witnesses — one security officer and two civilians.

Parallel to the review of the verdicts, the court also

entering a plea of innocence.

Three witnesses, supported by bank account statements, testified in court on how an amount of \$4,500 transferred by Khalifa to an account in Jordan was spent on assigning Koranic teachers to the Soviet Union and the Philippines.

Khalifa opted to surrender himself to Jordanian authorities after he was arrested in the U.S. in mid-December on charges of falsifying his visa application.

He was entitled to a trial by a U.S. immigration court, but the Saudi, speaking through his lawyers, said he did not think he would get a fair trial in the U.S., particularly after anti-Arab sentiments were whipped up by the Oklahoma bombing in late April.

RSCN seeks World Bank loan for Dana wildlife reserve

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) is seeking assistance from the World Bank to finance its projects for the conservation of Jordanian wildlife and nature reserves.

A society team led by Khaled Irani, head of the Wildlife Reserves department, left Amman for Washington, D.C. Monday saying that the talks aim at securing a \$3 million loan for the society's Dana Wildlife Reserve near the southern

town of Tafilah.

Mr. Irani was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that the three-day meeting with the World Bank will focus on the presentation of a general report about the progress of a three-year scheme for the development of the Dana reserve.

One-and-a-half years have elapsed since the start of the project, and the \$3 million are needed to finance the rest of the project in the next year and a half, said Mr.

Mrs. Irani said that the RSCN is also in the process of creating a centre for training the local residents in handicrafts to be sold to tourists, and to house a museum and a laboratory for researchers conducting environmental studies. He said that according to plans, the society will also establish a tourism camp to house visitors to the reserve. The RSCN now runs six wildlife reserves: the Azraq, Sharmari, Wadi Mujib, Zuhia, Dana and Rum reserves.

Relations between Cairo and Khartoum, already strained since Sudan's Islamic regime came to power in 1989, have plunged since Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak accused Sudan of masterminding a bid to kill him on June 26.

But Dr. Abdul Meguid said, Egypt and Sudan should first try to sort the issue between themselves. Mr. Meguid told reporters Sudanese Ambassador Ahmad Al Kordani had come to see him and proposed the league show it was willing to help narrow the gap between Cairo and Khartoum.

"Egypt hopes that the Sudanese government will take measures which can help us over the present crisis and that these measures will prove there is no link between the Sudanese government and these events, either in the past or from now on."

Asked about reports of the arrest of Egyptian engineers working for a building company in Khartoum, Mr. Musa said such steps should be avoided.

These subjects should first be treated at the bilateral level," added the secretary-general, who is Egyptian.

The Egyptian government also says that mediation is not necessary, though it has pre-

viously rebuffed Sudanese attempts to arrange high-level meetings.

Mr. Musa told reporters that the Sudanese government had to show it had nothing to do with acts of violence in neighbouring states.

Mr. Musa said: "There is consensus that there is a link between the Sudanese government and these events, either in the past or from now on."

Signed at the Ministry of Planning, the agreement brings the U.S. government's contribution to \$14.8 million out of a total of \$16 million, the statement said.

It will also ensure that the local communities at these sites benefit from the new economic opportunities that will be generated by the increased number of visitors, the statement said.

The first tranche of \$7.6 million was granted in September 1994.

The agreement was also

\$7.2m U. S. grant to improve tourist facilities, site communities

Arman (J.T.) — Ministers of Planning Rima Khalaf Huneidi and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley W. Egan Monday signed an agreement granting Jordan an additional \$7.2 million for the five-year Cultural and Environmental Resources Management (CERM) Project, a U.S. Information Service (USIS) statement said.

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The first phase of the project will benefit the sites of Petra, the Amman Citadel and Madaba. Other sites will be developed during the second phase of the project, the statement said.

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Burma opposition leader freed

RANGOON (AP) — Burmese pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was freed from House Arrest Monday, days before completing her six years of detention, official sources said.

Col. Kyaw Win, the deputy intelligence chief, went to Mrs. Suu Kyi's lake-side residence on University Avenue at 4 p.m. (0730 GMT) and told her of the military government's decision to lift the restriction order without preconditions, a source said.

"At her request, guards are still kept at her house but she is an ordinary citizen," said the source, who demanded anonymity.

The United States, the European Union and other Western governments have continually demanded the release of Mrs. Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize for her non-violent struggles for democracy in Burma.

The Burmese government has eased up in recent years and made efforts to break its international isolation, but Mrs. Suu Kyi's release surprised many foreign analysts. They said the authorities appeared to be solidifying their control over the country and, if freed, Mrs. Suu Kyi could only spell trouble since she has remained steadfastly committed to her cause even in detention.

Just last week, the junta had indicated it did not plan to release Mrs. Suu Kyi when she completed her sentence on July 19.

"The rights of 45 million people in the country are more important than the



Aung San Suu Kyi

rights of an individual," Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt said in an apparent reference to Mrs. Suu Kyi.

This impoverished South East Asian nation of 45 million people has been ruled by Socialist and military autocrats for decades, and has been torn not only by pro-democratic dissent but also armed ethnic minority guerrilla groups seeking greater autonomy. Amnesty International and other human rights group often have accused the current government of widespread human rights abuses.

Mrs. Suu Kyi, 50, led the National League for Democracy (NLD), which won a landslide victory in general elections in 1990 but was not allowed by the military to

rule. She had challenged the military after soldiers fatally shot hundreds of people to quell a 1988 mass uprising against autocratic rule. She advocated non-violent resistance, invoking the name of India's Mohandas Gandhi and her own father, Burmese independence leader Aung San.

The military junta put her under house arrest on July 20, 1989, under a security law for allegedly inciting unrest. Her detention was extended every 180 days under the law.

With the lifting of the restriction order, Mrs. Suu Kyi is allowed to go anywhere and meet anyone just like an ordinary citizen as long as she does not violate any laws, the sources said Monday.

No one apart from Mrs. Suu Kyi's immediate family had been allowed to visit her until U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson did so in February 1994. In another softening of its stand, government leaders met with Mrs. Suu Kyi for political dialogue at least twice, starting last September. Details of the talks have not been disclosed.

The government had said she could walk free anything as long as she left the country, but she refused. The government said it would not cede power to a civilian administration until completion of the drafting of a new constitution but would not give a timetable.

In a statement which her husband, British academic Michael Aris, took out in January, Mrs. Suu Kyi said she would never cut a secret deal for her release.

She wrote: "I adhere to the principle of accountability and consider myself at all times bound by the democratic duty... to be guided by the aspirations of those engaged in the movement to establish a truly democratic political system in Burma."

Mr. Aris, a professor at Oxford University, and their two sons live in England.

Burma's military rulers have suppressed virtually all outward dissent, but even isolated from the outside world, Mrs. Suu Kyi remained the symbol heart of the pro-democracy movement. In Burma, she was mentioned in reverential whispers as "the lady."

Mao allowed Dalai Lama to flee Tibet

BEIJING (R) — Chairman Mao Tse-tung secretly opened the way for the dramatic mountain escape to India by Tibet's god-king, the Dalai Lama, after an abortive uprising against Chinese rule in 1959, a newspaper said Monday.

The order by the late Chinese leader to allow the Dalai Lama to flee was an historic secret that could only now be revealed, more than 35 years later, the official China Youth Daily said.

Chinese soldiers had the Tibetan leader and his retinue in their gunsights when he crossed a river during his night escape from the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, but did not open fire because they had no orders to stop him, the newspaper said.

Mao told Communist

cadres and soldiers in Tibet they were forbidden to stop the Dalai Lama or his followers, even if they tried to leave the country during the abortive uprising in March, 1959, it said.

Mao's decision was a tactical move to divide Tibet's traditional upper-class rulers and to identify those who would support Beijing, the newspaper said.

An official of the Tibetan government said by telephone from Lhasa he was unable to comment since the region's current leaders were all too young to know enough about the uprising.

The Dalai Lama and tens of thousands of Tibetans fled to India during and after the armed uprising that followed almost nine years of Chinese military occupation of Tibet

and was crushed with heavy loss of life.

Since his hurried escape on horseback and on foot across some of the world's highest mountains, the Dalai Lama has lived in exile in India from where he has waged an international campaign for Tibetan political autonomy.

Beijing, which had worked to isolate the Dalai Lama diplomatically, has become embroiled in a dispute with him over the selection of a successor to the late Panchen Lama, Tibet's second-most senior religious and political leader.

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free movement — the seven-

nation Schengen Accord —

fell well short of expectations

when France decided last

month to continue passport

checks on

Luxembourg, another

member, retaliated by reintroducing checks on the

French border. The other

members are Belgium, Ger-

many, the Netherlands, Por-

tugal and Spain.

France argued that there

were holes in the way the

accord had been applied,

allowing drug trafficking and

illegal immigration.

Critics said the decision

looked more like a political

move by the new Chirac

administration prompted by

the rise of the anti-

immigration National Front.

EU officials said that the

plan to drop borders controls

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would contain the same kind

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But Britain, fearing the

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World News

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, JULY 11, 1995 5



A resident of Wei Dihu town of Hunan province rows a boat carrying his belongings after heavy flooding. The town with a population of 20,000 has seen more than two hundreds people die due to flooding. Destruction caused by the flood.

in Southern China is estimated at more than \$4 billion, affecting 100 million people and leaving 1,179 dead (AFP photo)

Flooding causes havoc on rail lines in China

BEIJING (Agencies) — Severe flooding in south China has interrupted train service for up to 14 days and delayed train transport for a total of more than 1,000 hours, the official press reported Monday.

Nearly 1,200 people have already died in heavy flooding that has hit 10 southern provinces. But government officials in most of the 10 provinces said Monday that rains had stopped or slowed and that flood waters were under control or receding.

The Civil Affairs Ministry's Disaster Relief Department said Monday that it had no new figures to update Friday's death toll of 1,179.

Flooding has submerged railroad tracks, caused landslides and washed away track beds in 110 places in the six provinces that are under the administration of the Shanghai Railway Bureau, Shanghai papers reported.

Service was interrupted in

40 of those places, delaying service for a total of 1,000 hours.

Service has not been restored in two places. A bridge across the Yangtze River, China's longest, was closed June 26 when water levels exceeded the danger zone.

On July 1, the railway closed the Xiangjiu line near the city of Jinjiang, Jiangxi province, when water in the Bai Lake threatened to spill over dikes. Railway workers were mobilized to build dikes along the tracks to protect them from flood waters, the reports said.

Summer flooding hits southern China every year, but unusually heavy rains this year have caused water levels to rise in nearly all rivers and lakes.

The Yangtze River swelled to levels not seen in more than 45 years along many towns in central Hubei and neighboring Anhui provinces.

Relations were badly strained in June by protests from Beijing, which tries to isolate Taiwan diplomatically, over a private visit to the United States by Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui.

China postponed high-level talks and a series of lower-level exchanges after Mr. Lee's visit, the first by a serving Taiwan president to the United States, which had excluded such visits as a matter of policy.

It's attempt to repair relations, Taiwan used its straits

Taiwan used devastating floods in China to try to repair strained relations Monday, offering its condolences and calling for relief funds for its Communist archrival.

Two private organizations have donated some \$400,000 in medicine and other relief for a flood which has killed nearly 1,200 people and injured more than 26,000 in 10 Chinese provinces.

"This morning we sent a letter to the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) to express our deep concern, and to commission the ARATS to present our condolences to the people who are suffering," Mr. Shin Chi-Ping, SEF's deputy secretary general, told reporters.

ARATS is China's equivalent of the SEF, also unofficial in name but actually representing Beijing.

"We are happy to see people in Taiwan donate money to help mainland people suffering in the floods," Mr. Shih added.

"All these show our very friendly responses and we hope the two sides can maintain very good relations," Mr. Shih said.

Hui to the United States, in June.

Last month, the United States accused China of violating an internationally recognised consular convention by refusing to let U.S. diplomats contact Mr. Wu.

Beijing insisted it has abided strictly to the consular accord but says Washington has repeatedly violated it.

Apparently underscoring China's insistence it had not violated the accord, Xinhua said: "The relevant Chinese department informed the U.S. embassy in Beugubug of Mr. Wu's arrest immediately afterwards."

Chinese officials, reached by telephone in Wuhan, had no immediate comment, but a prison official said Mr. Wu was in court custody.

The U.S. State Department maintains Mr. Wu's innocence and says his detention will damage U.S.-China relations, already tense over trade policy, human-rights and security issues.

Analysts say Mr. Wu's arrest as a further souring of China-U.S. relations, which have deteriorated since Beijing protested vehemently against the historic visit of Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui.

He has violated Chinese law and committed crimes," Xinhua said.

* Mr. Wu, born in China but now a U.S. citizen, was detained on June 19 after entering China from Kazakhstan.

The 58-year-old activist, who spent 19 years in Chinese labour camps for dissent activities, apparently recently incurred fresh Chinese wrath for writing extensively about China's secretive prison system and alleged human-rights abuses

ment," which agrees on consular access within 48 hours.

China formally arrested Mr. Wu Saturday on charges of espionage. Stealing state secrets and trying to enter the country under an assumed name. He faces a maximum penalty of death.

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U.S. diplomat meets detained Chinese-American

BEIJING (R) — Three weeks after being detained by China and cut off from the outside world, Chinese-American human rights activist Harry Wu, who faces espionage charges, finally met a U.S. diplomat Monday.

U.S. Consul-General Arturo Macias met Mr. Wu in detention in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, a U.S. embassy spokeswoman said.

"This is the meeting we've been seeking. This meeting has taken place.... It is a step forward," she said. She declined to provide details.

Xinhua News Agency said the visit was "arranged at the request of the U.S. embassy in Beijing in accordance with the Sino-U.S. consular agree-

ment," which agrees on consular access within 48 hours.

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Tourist bus crash kills 22 in France

AIGNON, France (AP) — A Spanish tour bus filled with college vacationers struck a truck and overturned in southern France before dawn Monday, killing 23 on board and injuring 32 others, police said.

The crash occurred on the A9 Highway near Avignon at 1:30 a.m. (2300 GMT Sunday) when the driver dozed off and the bus hit the truck, said police.

The driver lost control of the bus, which struck the centre divider and overturned, said police, who held the driver for questioning.

Of the 59 on board the bus, 22 were killed and 32 injured, 10 seriously. Only the driver and four young passengers

escaped unscathed, police said on anonymity.

The four passengers were taken to an emergency rescue station and given breakfast and beds Monday morning.

"I was sitting on the right and I fell on the passengers on the left when the bus fell over. There was a woman losing a lot of blood. I spoke with her, and then she died. Another woman had her arm amputated," said 26-year-old Isabel Gil, who was uninjured.

Emergency rescue and fire Brigade Commander Bernard Imbert was one of the first to arrive on the scene.

Ms. Gil is a psychology student from the University of Barcelona. She and 19 classmates were on their way back from a five-day trip to Amsterdam to celebrate the

end of the school year.

Most of the passengers were Spanish, but others were Dutch, Belgian and French, police said.

Benjamin Gobert, a 17-year-old Frenchman, was on his way with three family members to visit relatives in the south. "My brother and my cousin have been taken to the hospital," he told reporters.

Twenty-five others on the bus were injured, five seriously.

An initial investigation indicated that the bus driver attempted a U-turn on a four-lane highway. The truck, loaded with 20 tons of paper, was unable to avoid the bus.

The two drivers on the bus, the truck driver and a young passenger on the bus were among the dead, police said.

them when we raised the vehicle. Others were ejected. Both lanes of the highway were littered with human debris and luggage," Commander Imbert said.

Four people were killed in another pre-dawn crash Monday between a Slovak bus and a truck near Troussay in eastern France, police said.

Twenty-five others on the bus were injured, five seriously.

An initial investigation indicated that the bus driver attempted a U-turn on a four-lane highway. The truck, loaded with 20 tons of paper, was unable to avoid the bus.

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Controversial Indian film director hurt by bomb

MADRAS (R) — The director of controversial Indian film angrily denounced by Muslim fundamentalists was buried in a bomb attack Monday in the southern city of Madras, a doctor said.

Dr. K.R. Sridharan, said director Mani Ratnam, whose film Bombay was banned briefly to placate angry Muslims, was attacked while reading three crude bombs as he read a newspaper at home.

His assailants escaped in a scooter taxi.

"He has got multiple pellet injuries but he is not serious," Sridharan said. Mr. Ratnam would stay in hospital for a day, he added.

Mr. Ratnam's maid also sustained similar injuries, he said.

Officials said the attack

could be linked to the film, which depicts the love story of a Muslim girl with a Hindu boy and their attitude to communal violence that engulfed bombay in 1993.

Mr. Ratnam also made a highly successful movie linked to India's Kashmir separatist problem, called "Roja" (the rose). Both were made in Tamil and dubbed in Hindi.

"If our demands are not met by the government before July 15, the government will be responsible for all consequences," a statement from the five-year separatist insurgency in India's only Muslim-majority state, Jammu and Kashmir.

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Meanwhile, Western tourists with no chance of rescue by Indian soldiers remained Monday in the hands of Kashmir separatist guerrillas demanding the release of 20 imprisoned comrades.

Forty insurgents from Al Faran kidnapped two Britons and two Americans while they were on a trekking holiday near Pahalgam, 90 kilometres east of Srinagar, last Tuesday.

Government sources ruled

out rescue operations by Indian troops.

The guerrillas released three women and a man in the group, as well as their two guides.

One of the kidnap victims, John Donald Childs from the United States, escaped from his captors Saturday.

A fifth western tourist, Dirk Hasen from Germany, was abducted in the mountains 25 kilometres from Pahalgam Saturday. It was not known whether the two abductions were carried out by the same group.

Childs, the American who escaped, was spotted on a ridge in the rugged Himalayan valley fifteen hours after he escaped. He was spotted by a helicopter carrying Lieutenant-General D.D. Saklani, security adviser to the state governor.

Heavy equipment was fast reaching the collapsed basement levels of the five-storey structure where the stench of decomposing bodies was overpowering, witnesses said.

Television stations, meanwhile, showed a quietly emotional reunion between 21-year-old student, Choi Myung-Suk, rescued Sunday from a five-story building that collapsed in an

air pocket deep in the rubble, and the girlfriend he thought had died in the collapse.

The girl, a fellow shop assistant injured in the collapse, was shown sitting clasping Choi's hand as he started taking his first food, a little rice, in suburban St. Mary's hospital.

"Her face came into my mind many times (during the ten days underground)," Mr. Choi told reporters Monday. Doctors said he was improving rapidly.

Mr. Choi told reporters

Sunday he had survived on water seepage and by chewing on a cardboard carton.

"I feel like I am in heaven," he was quoted as saying when he awoke in a ward in suburban St. Mary's Hospital before dawn Monday.

"When I woke in the dark I

thought I was still down there, but then I realised a

school friend was holding my hand, then the nurses came,"

Yonhap News Agency quoted him as saying.

Investigators tracing how the owners of the doomed

store had been able to illegally modify the shoddily-built

structure where the stench of

decomposing bodies was

overpowering, witnesses said.

The shopping centre was

built during a building boom

in 1989 on the site of an old

trash landfill.

Sri Lankan war escalates as rebels offer stiff resistance

COLOMBO (AFP) — Fierce battles, sometimes hand-to-hand, erupted in northern Sri Lanka Monday as Tamil rebels offered stiff resistance to a major military advance, military officials said.

Six soldiers were killed and 71 wounded in the military's biggest campaign ever in the Jaffna peninsula, where the rebels maintain a de facto separate state, officials said.

"The terrorists are coming towards us. Our objective is to kill as many as possible. We are asking civilians to return to liberated areas in the next few days," spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

He discounted claims by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam that 150 civilians had been killed, 250 wounded and another 300 displaced as a result of the heavy fighting concentrated on the southwestern flank of the Palaly military complex.

"There are no civilians in the areas where the fighting is taking place because they had enough time to get out of the firing line. But we are asking civilians to return in about two days," Mr. Munasinghe said.

He said the government was gearing for a major provision of food, medicine and electricity to those who return to the areas wrested from the control of the rebels.

As heavy fighting flared, an air force helicopter was shot and crippled by the rebels, forcing the pilot to make an emergency landing in military-held territory. The helicopter, the second to be hit in as many days, toppled on landing, wounding a officer and a gunner.

Mr. Munasinghe said aircraft bombed at least three targets in support of ground troops conducting the "Leap Forward" Operation, which involves some 10,000 soldiers, the navy and the airforce.

Sri Lankan security forces search a park in the capital following a bomb blast in the area.

They were no casualties in the explosion. A second explosion occurred later in the capital, again with no casualties. Both blasts come

casualties.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Dialogue before solutions

THE FOREIGN ministers of the eight Arab states who are signatories to the Damascus Declaration, authored in the wake of Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, have just concluded a meeting they held this week on a positive note. They called for more determined efforts to forge one united Arab front on all issues affecting the nation. While it is indeed progress for any group of Arabs to get together and call for unity, we must admit that we have a concern or two about what our brothers have just decreed. The big question is whether we, the Arabs, consist of one or several blocs. As long as there are limited Arab pacts and exclusive alliances, open to some and denied to others, the Arab Nation would remain deeply divided instead of being united as called for by the eight, namely the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Egypt and Syria.

On the eve of the Gulf conflict, the Arab World had three major alliances grouping most Arab countries except Syria. Those were the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), the Maghreb Union and the GCC. The ACC (which grouped Jordan, Egypt, Yemen and Iraq) was the first victim of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. It has since been put in deep freeze. The Maghreb Union also did not record any big, or small, successes. Its members have more differences than they have in common. On the other hand, the GCC (which groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain) has cracks in its walls as a result of differences that appeared in the aftermath of the Gulf conflict. And the Arabs' overall umbrella, the Arab League, seems to be out of it for now. In fact long before, during and after the Gulf crisis the League failed to avert any crisis between any two of its members.

While the Arab Nation seems to be afflicted by so many problems, there are nevertheless some signs of hope. The recent rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, the scaling down of the conflict between Sudan and Egypt, repeated calls for ending sanctions on Iraq and reports of imminent reconciliation between Jordan and Saudi Arabia are all signs that the Arab leaders are finally coming to realise that the threats they face collectively are greater than those they pose to each other. If current efforts could lead to a full or mini-Arab summit that would be some achievement. Even more limited summits, like the hoped-for meeting between Their Majesties King Hussein and King Fahd, could make a lot of difference to the future of the nation. We say this because we believe that short of Arab leaders meeting one another and hammering out outstanding issues, nothing of tangible magnitude could be achieved.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i daily decried the role of the United Nations and questioned the reason behind the Arab countries' membership in this organisation which, he said, is working against the Arab Nation's interests. Citing the UN failure in Palestine, Somalia, Afghanistan, the Western Sahara and Iraq, Tareq Masa'wah said the world organisation has proved its total failure largely because it remains under the influence of the United States and its allies. Referring to the U.N. failure in Bosnia, the writer said the Western powers are not taking serious measures to stop the conflict because there is no oil or other interests for them to protect in that region. He said the U.N. has failed to provide protection to the Kurds because an ally of the Western powers is involved in war against the Kurdish population. The United States is by no means eligible to lead the United Nations in matters to safeguard world peace because it has been steering the world organisation in a manner that would protect its own selfish interests and those of the wealthy Western nations, continued the writer.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour urged the Ministry of Supply to fix the prices of coffee and restrain the excessive greed of the merchants who deal with this popular commodity. Mohammad Danud said that the price of coffee in Jordan is still high, two months after the sharp drop in its world prices; but the government was doing nothing in this matter. Refuting excuses given by merchants that they had bought the coffee at previous high prices, the writer said that these same merchants hiked the coffee prices the minute they heard of the frost that ruined Brazilian coffee causing world coffee prices to soar, though their stores were full of coffee purchased at the previous lower prices. As long as the merchants are allowed to raise the coffee prices the minute they hear the world price increases, they ought to be forced to bring these prices down the moment these prices decline, said the writer.

The View from Fourth Circle

Arabian golf ball cleaners and the business of tourism

By Rami G. Khouri

OF ALL the economic and social sectors where Mideast peace may usher in new hopes and opportunities, the most obvious to date is tourism — but it is also among the most dangerous — in terms of the long-term well-being of Jordan's human culture, social fabric and natural environment.

The rapid expansion in the tourism sector during the past half year has seen a sharp (nearly 100 per cent) increase in tourist arrivals, rising employment and substantial expressions of intent to invest in hotels, bus companies and other new tourism projects. This is good news for those in Jordan, including myself, who believe that a sensible tourism policy can contribute significantly to the economy while also playing the equally important role of promoting mutually beneficial and enjoyable people-to-people contacts with visitors from other lands and cultures.

The danger, however, is that the volume, allure and political muscle of private sector money in the tourism sector may very well overwhelm the capacity and the desire of the government to provide the sort of quality controls and environmental and social safeguards that are necessary to keep tourism from developing into a negative force in our country. Will government licensing promote tourism that is as beneficial to Jordan and Jordanians as it is to foreign firms and investors? Will rapid and large-scale tourism expansion promote a healthier or a more destructive attitude among Jordanians to their natural and historical heritage sites?

The track record of our country is very mixed in this respect. The touristic and urban development of Aqaba, for example, has been quite coherent and stringent, and most of the important natural attractions remain relatively well-protected; but the development of Petra and Wadi Musa has been haphazard and chaotic, especially the government's licensing of major new hotels in the immediate vicinity of the antiquities site.

This suggests to me that when the Jordanian private sector and international investors flex their muscles, they can do virtually anything they please; and they can justify it in terms of the new gods that we are being conditioned to worship — creating jobs and increasing foreign exchange income. If tourism does not benefit ordinary Jordanians in an equitable manner, and instead primarily satisfies the aims of foreign travellers and investors, then I suggest we need to completely rethink why we attract tourists and how our country can benefit from promoting the tourism sector.

I was both pleased and worried to read recently that local, regional and international investors have submitted offers to invest more than JD 200 million in tourism projects along the northeast coast of the Dead Sea. Other areas in Jordan may experience a similar rush of investments, such as Wadi Rum, Madaba, Umm Qais, the south coast at Aqaba and perhaps Pella and Azraq.

These sites are remarkable for their combination of unspoilt, almost pristine natural beauty, easy accessibility to important antiquities and the very relaxed, natural interaction that can occur between visitors and native.

These assets, however, may be seriously and irreparably damaged by tourism development projects that place a higher premium on cash flow than on preserving the deeply satisfying natural attributes and human values that define the best of Jordan and its people. How many times these days do visitors at Petra, for example, interact with local residents in a manner that goes beyond cash transactions, bargaining and asking for tips?

We already have several troubling examples of what can happen when a fast, large influx of tourist money descends upon a traditional Jordanian community. Economic distortions result in very high land prices, which make life difficult for young people who find it increasingly difficult to buy, build or rent a home. Tourism merchants and service personnel, despite their honourable nature, often find it irresistible to engage in price gouging, over-charging and flagrant commercial exploitation of foreign visitors. Jordanians today increasingly get into the business of pirating tourism books and videos. Natural environments slowly give way to new buildings and the destructive pressures of large numbers of tourists in small areas, often without sufficient sanitary facilities. Traditional crafts slowly change to suit the tastes of international markets, sometimes totally losing touch with their ancestral cultural legacy — Europeans and Americans will buy purple magazine holders for their bathrooms, so Jordanians weavers and embroiderers will produce these novel items. The acceptable promotion of our antiquities and natural sites has slowly expanded into the more problematic marketing and selling of our own human culture, which we seem willing to change to suit foreign commercial tastes.

Perhaps the most troubling aspect of the social and natural fragility of our tourist sites is the fact that most destruction there is carried out by Jordanians. The black market in antiquities is a local enterprise, and almost all of the destructive, ugly graffiti on our ancient monuments is the work of Jordanian and other Arab visitors — as any informal inventory of the names spray-painted or scratched into the monuments will confirm: Not many Peters or Siegfrieds, but lots of Majids and Ahmad. Most of the litter and human feces at the sites is deposited there by local visitors, and the schoolchildren who run around picking the roses at the Jerash resthouse are Jordanian children, not foreign tourists.

These are uncomfortable but true facts that we ignore at our peril. I mention them with much sadness, but in the spirit of desiring to promote a more vigorous focus on the full realities and consequences of rapid tourism expansion in a context of such a delicate natural and cultural environment.

Tourism development in Jordan has given too much emphasis to satisfying the commercial aims of private Jordanian and international investors, without sufficient attention to spreading the gains of tourism more equitably among Jordanians. If this legacy is allowed to prevail in the coming few years of anticipated tourism expansion, we may have to accept the inevitability of some cultural and

environmental disasters in some remote sites that are now veritable gems.

To minimise this possibility, I recommend two actions. The first is establishing a national monitoring system that would track social, environmental, economic, cultural and political changes that occur at touristic sites. If we know what good and bad things happen at tourism sites that develop rapidly, we could promote the good and reduce the bad.

My second suggestion is quickly to establish — preferably this summer — a national system that can make the important impending decisions on tourism investments in a manner that taps the best minds in the country and among our many international friends and partners. It would be an act of great developmental sensitivity and political maturity, for example, for the planning, tourism, industry and commerce and municipal and rural affairs and the environment ministries (who are involved in various aspects of approving new investments) to hold public hearings about proposed major new tourism activities, especially in Wadi Rum, Umm Qais, the Dead Sea coast and Aqaba. It should be a mistake of nearly criminal magnitude, for example, to allow the licensing of large new hotels as close to antiquities and natural sites as has already occurred in Petra. We have no guarantee today that this will not occur again.

The minister of tourism and antiquities and his senior staff have already shown great determination and will to make the tough decisions that have to be made to assure the long-term, environmentally sustainable, and socially dignified development of the tourism sector. They will face enormous new political and commercial pressure in the immediate future, though, as hundreds of millions of dollars of investor funds seek new outlets in Jordan.

What will happen, for example, if a big-name international hotel chain with a politically powerful local agent offers to spend JD 20 million to build a golf resort and small airport between the mountains in Wadi Rum, with promises of local construction contracts, employment opportunities and a big new annual market of tens of thousands of high-spending Japanese, American and European golfers? Can the decision-making system in Jordan resist such offerings to the new commercial gods of the global marketplace?

I would find it very sad if the local inhabitants of Wadi Rum transformed their vehicles into Arabian golf carts, and the local handcraftsmen and women started producing Arabian Nights or Holy Land golf bags and hand-embroidered golf ball cleaning rags. Sounds ridiculous? Of course it does, because it is ridiculous. But in the present climate of escalating investor pressures to exploit our land and culture for their own profitability, it is more possible than ever before.

This moment of change, opportunity, hope and challenge calls for Jordanians in the private sector and non-governmental organisations to work closely with the government to make sure that we are not collectively overwhelmed and humiliated by the invisible hand of the marketplace that would have us forever dance for dollars.

Division along the Nile

By G.H. Jansen

IN THE first work of history ever written, Herodotus, "the Father of History", wrote in the fourth century B.C. "Egypt is the gift of the Nile," meaning not only that the soil of Egypt is made up of sediment deposited by the river but also that it is the water of the river used for Egypt's intensive cultivation that keeps Egypt alive.

But it is those same waters that are now the cause of contestation between Egypt and the Sudan, through which the river flows before reaching Egypt. During the exchange of verbal abuse between Egypt and Sudan, the latter made empty threats. On two separate occasions Sudanese spokesmen, one of them being Hassan Al Turabi, spoke of withholding Nile waters from Egypt.

This was foolish not only because the Nile waters are a simple matter of life and death for Egypt — the later president Anwar Sadat is quoted as saying that water is the only issue for which Egypt could go to war again — but also because Sudan, topographically, is in no position to carry out this threat.

Present Sudanese policies have brought Sudan, alongside Iran, Iraq, Syria and Libya, onto the list of "terrorist states" drawn up by the U.S. This situation has led at least one Palestinian political scientist to argue that the assassination attempt and the resulting hostility between Egypt and Sudan are nothing but a thinly camouflaged attempt to bring down the present militant Sudanese government. His argument goes on: Of these so-called "terrorist states" Iraq is crippled, Iran is far away, Syria is caught up in the peace process, Libya is marginal, which leaves Sudan as the only real threat to Pax Americana in the West African area.

Egypt accuses the Islamic regime of giving covert aid and comfort to the Islamic antagonists of the Mubarak regime in Egypt; while, for its part, Sudan accuses Egypt of giving aid and comfort, quite openly, to the Christian and animist groups in southern Sudan, who have waged a long-drawn-out civil war against Khartoum.

Besides the violence in the Halaib area, in yet another retaliatory act, Egypt has now decreed that the two million Sudanese living in Egypt — some of them for generations — must all acquire visas — of one month's duration. This requirement can only lead to most horrendous confusion, and corruption in the already inefficient and overburdened Egyptian administration. Although there are hundreds of thousands of Egyptians living in Sudan, Khartoum has said it would not retaliate.

be at Roseires, a point just inside Sudan, where the Blue Nile debouches from the highlands of Ethiopia onto the lowlands of Sudan, and where a dam has already been built.

Building a dam anywhere along the upper reaches of the Blue Nile would not present a problem because the river runs through hilly country in Ethiopia which, if it built dams, could seriously harm both Egypt and Sudan. This could be one reason why Egypt has been careful not to complain against Ethiopia, not even for negligence in allowing the assassination attempt to take place just outside its capital city.

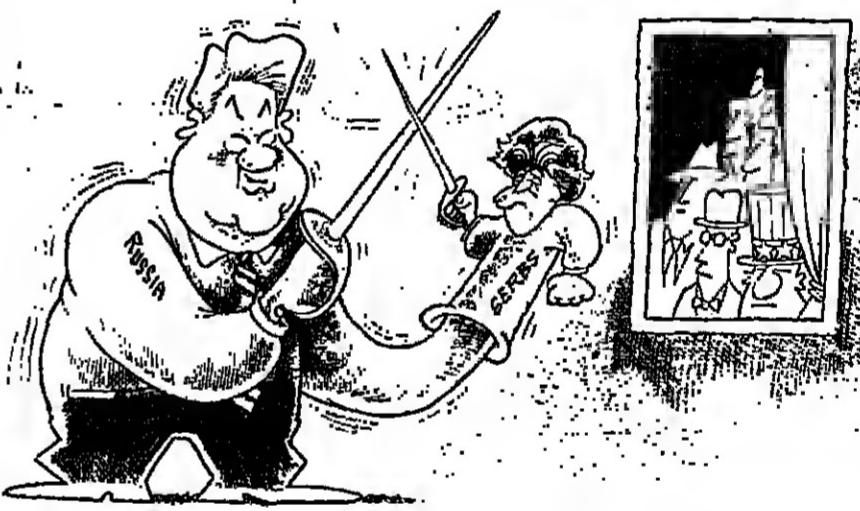
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M. KAHL



Turkey's constitutional mire threatens EU deal

By Suna Erdem
Reuter

ANKARA — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller is back at square one this week in her bid to democratise the country's constitution after a conservative alliance in parliament sniped relentlessly at her every proposal.

But analysts and diplomats say Ankara's customs unions deal with Europe is in the balance unless the government can show, and soon, concrete progress in making Turkey more democratic.

Ms. Ciller froze debate on a series of constitutional changes on Thursday after parliament voted down an amendment to give public sector workers union rights. She said it was to allow a new consensus to form but gave no time for debate to resume.

Thursday's vote was just the last straw — progress on all other measures had also been painstakingly slow, despite an initial cross-party consensus to reform the constitution drawn up in 1982 by Turkey's generals, then in power.

"This was the one thing the European parliament was expecting Turkey would manage," a Western diplomat said. "Ciller has to have something to show... There were three options — the release of DEP MPs, Article 8, and this. This looked to be the easiest," he added.

The other possible measure the diplomat referred to were the release of six former Turkish MPs who

were jailed last year for supporting Kurdish rights, and an article in the constitution which hinders freedom of expression and has been responsible for jailing scores of writers and intellectuals.

European Union (EU) negotiators struck a customs deal with Turkey earlier this year that would give Ankara full access to European markets and is a significant stepping stone to EU membership.

But the European Parliament has still to ratify the deal and has made it clear it wants to see Turkey show, by action rather than words, it is committed to full liberal democracy.

In fact, the constitutional debate designed to achieve that has ended up throwing that commitment into question.

"It seems (local) political expediency came out tops against the advantages offered by the constitutional changes," Sedat Ergin, a columnist at Hurriyet daily, told Reuters.

"Article 8 has become a matter of honour... It represents those tied to the old system versus the new," Mr. Birand said.

Early general elections are another option, although Ms. Ciller insists her coalition with the CHP will not split up.

ANAP is now calling for fresh elections.

Turkey's stock market plummeted recently when CHP ministers failed to turn up to a cabinet meeting, and grassroots supporters in the party accuse its leadership of being bullied by Ms. Ciller's party into compromising social democratic values.

Ms. Ciller also faced

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By Laura Ki
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Saudis seek foreign capital to diversify economy

ABU DHABI (AP) — Saudi Arabia has made a fresh move to attract foreign capital to support its new five-year development plan, which aims to diversify the economy and offset damage from low oil prices.

The kingdom, the world's leading oil producer and exporter, signed an agreement with the World Bank on Saturday to encourage foreign investment, a few days after it announced details of its sixth development plan.

It was the second measure in almost two years to lure investors who had long been disheartened by restrictions on foreign ownership. Foreigners will be permitted to fully own projects that serve the Saudi economy, especially industrial ventures that help boost non-oil exports.

"There is no doubt the new agreement will contribute to attracting foreign capital, which is essential for economic revival," said Anzar Ahmed, deputy chairman of the Consultancy Centre for Finance and Investment.

"But it will have no impact on the Saudi stock market as foreigners are still not allowed to trade in shares," he told AFP by telephone from Riyadh.

Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed Abalkhail signed the memorandum of understanding with World Bank President James Wolfensohn who visited Riyadh as part of a regional tour that also took him to Gaza.

Iran ups oil sales to Asia after U.S. embargo

NICOSIA (R) — Iran is countering a U.S. trade ban by selling more of its vital hard-currency oil exports to Japanese and other Asian companies, the Middle East Economics Survey (MEES) reported on Monday.

U.S. President Bill Clinton's trade sanctions against Teheran, which went into effect on June 6 because of Iran's alleged sponsorship of terrorism, severed the annual \$4 billion oil trade between the two countries.

American oil companies

in a statement, the finance ministry said the accord was intended to encourage foreign capital to invest in association with the Saudi private sector through the World Bank's International Investment Guarantee Agency.

Officials have provided no figures on projected investment, but bankers estimated it at little more than \$100 billion. Their assumption was based on the 3.8 per cent growth rate and the 1994 GDP of \$120 billion.

According to the Kuwait-based Arab Corporation for Investment Guaranteed (ACIG), foreign investment in Saudi Arabia is estimated at around 23.8 billion riyals (\$6.34 billion), based mainly in non-oil industries and banking.

The plan, targeting a growth rate of 3.8 per cent, reverses a long-standing policy of high government expenditure to allow the private sector to steer the economy away from oil. It plans spending of around 750 billion Saudi riyals (\$200 billion) far lower than that during the previous plan.

The plan's main outlines involve upgrading efficiency, rationalising expenditure, and exploiting the enormous potential of the private sector to diversify the oil-reliant economy and privatise public institutions.

It also set investment target of 15.5 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) during its first years, to rise to 19 per cent later.

The investment target outlined in the plan covers both public and private capital, but I think the private sector will have the lion share. The Saudi government apparently hopes the agree-

ment with the World Bank will support such an objective," a Riyadh-based banker told AFP.

According to the Kuwait-based Arab Corporation for Investment Guaranteed (ACIG), foreign investment in Saudi Arabia is estimated at around 23.8 billion riyals (\$6.34 billion), based mainly in non-oil industries and banking.

They cover nearly 360 ventures owned jointly with the Saudi public and private sectors with a total value of \$14.7 billion.

Bankers said foreigners could be allowed to contribute to privatisation programmes announced by the government last year. They include selling part of the telephone, electricity and water sectors as well as port services to the private sector as part of overall economic reforms.

"Foreigners might be allowed to participate in such programmes at a later stage but their share will be limited," a banker said.

Saudi Arabia, which controls more than a quarter of the world's crude oil, launched reforms after the decline in oil prices badly hurt its coffers.

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OPEC output steady in June, survey

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' oil production in June was 25.11 million barrels a day, a slight increase over May, the Middle East Economic Survey reported Monday.

The authoritative oil industry newsletter noted that an increase in Iranian output of 70,000 barrels daily was offset by a similar drop in Nigerian production caused by damage to a key undersea pipeline at Mobil's Oua Iboc terminal June 14.

The overall June total was 590,000 barrels a day above the OPEC ceiling of 24.52 million barrels. May production totalled 25.09 million barrels.

MEES, published in Nicosia, said that among the major violators was Venezuela, producing 241,000 barrels a day over its 2.359-barrel OPEC ceiling and Gabon, 58,000 barrels a day over its 287,000-barrel quota.

Iran's production level was pegged at 3.645 million barrels. Its quota is 3.6 million barrels.

Nigeria's output for June was 1.85 million barrels a day, compared to its quota of 1.865 million, MEES reported.

Japanese and other Asian refiners from turnaround this month allowed Far East buyers to ratchet up their purchases of Iranian crude in June enough to offset volumes backed out by the U.S. trade ban against the country, MEES reported.

The American companies have lifted the Iranian crude cargoes in the first week of June before the ban came into effect.

Iran has said that the Clinton embargo will not affect its energy companies, Iran's major customers in the region, lifted an average of 640,000 bpd of Iranian crude in June, compared with 201,000 bpd in May and

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Liftings by American companies fell in June to 186,000 bpd from 740,000 bpd in May as Mr. Clinton's sanctions took effect.

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Liftings by American companies fell in June to 18

Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, JULY 11, 1995 9

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**Business
Daily
Debt**
A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Cabinet allocates \$150m for electricity sector

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazeh said the Cabinet decided to allocate \$150 million annually for generating electricity and purchasing equipment needed by the electricity sector. Mr. Darwazeh said the decision was taken in view of the rising demand for electricity, pointing out that the industrial sector's consumption of electricity has risen by 10 per cent and the domestic consumption by eight per cent. The minister said the Council of Ministers also approved a request by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources to purchase an electricity generation unit this month to produce electric energy and reduce the pressure on the operating units. He denied reports that Jordan was to face an energy crisis during the coming five-year period and said the cabinet's decision to buy generators and other equipment for \$150 annually will meet any rise in demand for electric energy.

He said a delegation from his ministry will visit Egypt later this month to hold talks with Egyptian counterparts on the possibility of getting natural gas from Egypt to Aqaba. He said the Egyptian gas will be used in operating electricity stations in the port city (Al Aswaq).

The Slaughter House Department of the Greater Amman Municipality destroyed 1,100 heads of refrigerated livestock imported from Russia by airplane after they were found unfit for consumption. Department Director Othman Kilani said the quantity had been not stored properly in the country of origin which rendered it unfit for consumption (Al Ra'i).

Director General of the Agricultural Credit Corporation Mohammad Arabyan on Sunday met with a delegation representing the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for talks on the possibility of giving the ACC a role in a project to preserve water and soil carried out by IFAD. The delegation will visit the ACC's branches in Karak and Tafileh to become familiarised with progress achieved in projects financed by IFAD (Al Ra'i).

Jordan loses about JD 12 million annually because of livestock dying as a result of eating plastic bags scattered in pasture lands, according to Chairman of the Veterinarian Sciences Department at the Jordan University of Science and Technology Nabeel Heilat. Dr. Heilat said animals eating these bags suffer from symptoms similar to cancer. He said of 300 surgeries operated on livestock last year, plastic bags were discovered inside 130 animals. He added that plastic material which contains polystyrene might be digested by animals, and this can threaten people who consume their meat (Al Ra'i).

Debtors seek easier terms for bad debt repayments

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwaiti debtors said Sunday a government proposal designed to make it easier for them to repay some \$24 billion in bad debts was still unsatisfactory, and warned that it could lead to economic collapse.

"We do not want to be treated unjustly and we need time to be able to repay," said Badr Al Sharhan, a businessman speaking for the assembly that calls itself the Economic Group subject to law 41/93.

The debts, some owed by members of the ruling Al Sabah family, were incurred in a stock market crash 13 years ago and during a seven-month Iraqi occupation, which ended in February.

Mr. Al Sharhan said the

proposed amendments, just like the 1993 law, ignored the fact that many debtors, especially those who suffered losses during the Iraqi occupation do not have the means to make these payments.

The amendments were expected to also spark a confrontation between the cabinet and the opposition-dominated parliament, which has approved it.

The economic group wants debtors to be given a grace period of two years. Those who cannot repay, should have the option of settling their dues from their annual profits, it says.

Mr. Al Sharhan warned that when Kuwaitis sell their assets in order to repay their

debts, prices in the stock and real estate markets will plummet and many businesses will collapse.

Most legislatures disagree with the government plan, charging it would waste public funds at a time the emirate is struggling to close unpreceded budget deficits caused by low oil prices and the costs of the Gulf war.

"This is a weird government we have," said Islamic deputy Nasser Al Saneh in a recent public session. "If a citizen is late paying his 100 dinar (\$333) telephone bill they disconnect his line."

"But to someone who owes 100 million dinars (\$333 million), they say you can pay after 20 years."

Spain orange dispute stalls Israel-EU trade pact

TEL AVIV (R) — A dispute with Spain over the entry price of Israeli oranges is holding up the signing of a renewed economic accord with the European Union.

Israeli Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tsur said on Monday that Spain is seeking an entry price that is unacceptable to Israel and added that he has discussed the matter with Foreign

Minister Shimon Peres, who has promised that Israel will not sign any accord until the issue is resolved.

Israel has gotten caught up in a fishing dispute between Spain and Morocco. Since oranges from the north African country would benefit from the same favourable terms granted to Israeli citrus, Spain has decided not to settle the orange dispute until it resolves its problem.

Swiss banks to investigate holocaust victims' accounts

TEL AVIV (AP) — Swiss bank officials have agreed to name an independent arbiter to help restore thousands of bank accounts opened by Jews killed in the holocaust to their rightful heirs, a Jerusalem magazine reported.

The Jerusalem report, in an issue published Tuesday, said a formal announcement is expected within weeks.

The decision follows the magazine's publication last month of an article detailing the obstacles faced by relatives trying to claim money

left in Swiss banks by holocaust victims.

The relatives have been thwarted by Switzerland's notorious bank secrecy laws, under which banks can refuse to release account information unless the depositors or their heirs have specific documentation — often missing in the case of holocaust victims.

Estimates of the current value of the unclaimed accounts range from tens of millions of dollars to billions of dollars.

more would increase banks' costs through a need for higher capital backing to guarantee transfers.

Finland, Italy, Sweden and the U.K. all backed the commission's proposal, although they indicated they were willing to accept a 50,000 ECUs ceiling, as has been proposed by the European Parliament.

The new rules, contained in a draft directive from the European Commission, were referred back to officials from further talks after the ministers failed to agree on a ceiling for automatic reimbursements.

The directive, if passed, would oblige banks to disclose all charges involved in a transaction and to guarantee that money reaches its destination account within five working days of being sent.

If the target was not met or if money failed to arrive, consumers would be guaranteed full reimbursement.

This was rejected by Germany and Belgium, who called for a ceiling of 5,000 ECUs (\$6,500) on reimbursements, arguing that anything

more would increase banks' costs through a need for higher capital backing to guarantee transfers.

A commission study revealed that banks charged an average 25.4 ECUs to make an urgent transfer of 100 ECUs (\$130) and that even for such a small amount, the transaction took more than four days.

Charges were imposed on both receiver and sender of the money in 36 per cent of cases and only one in five banks could accurately predict how long the transfer would take.

EU fails to agree on cross-border banking rules

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Proposed regulations designed to increase consumer protection against overcharging and poor service by banks on cross-border money transfers failed to win approval from EU finance ministers here on Monday.

The new rules, contained in a draft directive from the European Commission, were referred back to officials from further talks after the ministers failed to agree on a ceiling for automatic reimbursements.

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET		HOUSE BANK CENTER AMMAN - SEMISANI		
		TELEPHONE: 607172 / 607179		
		ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 10/07/1995		
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	PREV. TRADED	CLOSING PRICE JD	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PIC	280	60930	218,000	218,000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	7642	35906	4,570	4,680
CRISTAL BANK	1780	7893	4,550	4,510
BANK OF JORDAN	1500	4945	3,250	3,320
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	250	335	1,340	1,340
THE HOUSING BANK	3900	31785	8,120	8,150
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	212	595	2,230	2,280
JORDAN GOLF BANK	1000	1622	1,100	1,100
ARMED FORCES INVESTMENT BANK	150	6045	3,900	3,900
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	3010	11253	3,750	3,730
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	150	660	4,450	4,400
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	10422	43013	4,200	4,150
REXUS EQUITY & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	700	2645	3,810	3,770
ARMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	9500	10734	1,100	1,100
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	50150	78507	1,550	1,580
BANKS SECTOR		92039	296505	INDEX NUMBER: 180.67 CHANGE : 0.002
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	7450	19773	2,550	2,580
JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE	200	608	3,200	3,040
THE NATIONAL AERIA INSURANCE	2000	6000	3,100	3,000
INSURANCE SECTOR		9650	26381	INDEX NUMBER: 135.47 CHANGE : -0.124
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	31617	53045	1,690	1,680
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	3328	9627	2,230	2,240
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	3700	8314	2,290	2,210
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	650	670	1,030	1,030
MACHINERY EQUIP., RENTING & MAINTENANCE	500	335	670	670
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	5600	18387	3,310	3,310
SERVICES SECTOR		45575	91435	INDEX NUMBER: 132.47 CHANGE : +0.124
ATTACHEE CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	2000	2480	1,240	1,240
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	4260	1607	3,100	3,100
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL MINES	752	23192	3,050	3,070
THE ARAB POTASH	1300	6702	5,150	5,170
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1902	19584	10,300	10,300
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	345	1136	3,380	3,300
THE JORDAN WOOLST MILL	100	790	7,950	7,900
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	4672	22932	4,950	4,950
JORDAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES	100	325	6,000	5,950
JORDAN DAIRY	250	575	2,350	2,300
JORDAN PIPE MANUFACTURING	850	2128	2,610	2,560
RAPHA INDUSTRIES	600	1512	2,520	2,520
QAR AL DAERA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	13512	10624	7,280	8,000
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	3235	10715	5,800	5,740
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10700	5425	510	520
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	4400	6116	1,390	1,390
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	1296	1519	1,180	1,170
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	250	578	2,350	2,310
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	100	425	4,250	4,250
JORDAN ROCKWELL INDUSTRIES	450	527	1,170	1,170
ARAB PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS	150	339	2,250	2,250
EMPIRE INVESTMENT	889	1368	1,500	1,540
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	1273	4072	3,200	3,200
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	1305	2792	2,160	2,140
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	3650	6886	1,910	1,880
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR		72425	199417	INDEX NUMBER: 130.85 CHANGE : -0.23%
GRAND TOTAL		219689	613737	INDEX NUMBER: 156.10 CHANGE : -0.072
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET			117528	
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET			136933	

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 117528

VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET : 136933

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Martina Navratilova

Navratilova wins 19th Wimbledon title

LONDON (R) — Martina Navratilova moved closer to Billie Jean King's all-time record of 20 Wimbledon titles when she won the mixed doubles with Jonathan Stark on Sunday — a player she had never met before the tournament started.

Navratilova and Stark, the third seeds, beat fourth seeds Cyril Suk of the Czech Republic and Gigi Fernandez of the U.S. 6-4 6-4 in just 59 minutes to give Navratilova her 19th Wimbledon title since her first in the women's doubles with Chris Evert in 1976.

Afterwards Stark, who had not even planned to play in the mixed doubles, said he decided to play after being contacted by Navratilova the night before the tournament began.

"Her coach got in touch with a friend of mine and I found out someone called Martina wanted to play mixed with me," the American said.

Muster's unbeaten run ended

GSTAAD, Switzerland (AFP) — Thomas Muster, the French Open champion, lost his 40 clay court match unbeaten record here on Monday beaten by Spaniard Alex Corretja 5-7, 1-6.

Muster who has shaken off his popular image of being a humourless dour individual was graceful in defeat saying: "I was beaten by someone who played better. He didn't miss any of his chances."

Although the courts here are clay because they are at altitude they play as fast as hardcourts and Muster looked out of sorts. His unbeaten run dating back to his defeat to another Spaniard Emilio Sanchez at Palermo last October looked under threat from the initial exchanges.

Muster lost the first set on a double fault and was facing the humiliation of a 6-0 loss in the second set but found the reserves to serve out a love game. Corretja held his nerve and served to clinch it 6-1.

Muster admitted that losing after so long was hard to get used to: "This is a bad surprise."

Corretja, ranked number 22 in the world, and a quarter-finalist in 1993 said: "I had a lot of respect for Thomas, but I was not afraid of him. You have to go on court thinking that you can beat anyone."

Uruguay go through to Copa America quarters

MONTEVIDEO (AFP) — Enzo Francescoli masterminded Uruguay's passage to the Copa America quarters following a 1-0 win over clueless Paraguay here on Sunday.

Though a mainly dour match, it was sprinkled with touches of class including the goal by the former South American footballer of the year in the 14th minute.

Meanwhile Mexico notched up their first win of the tournament — a 3-1 victory over nine-man Venezuela in the other Group A match at Maldonado.

Striker Luis Garcia hit two penalties and Missael Espinoza got the other for Mexico. Venezuela thanked an own goal from Jorge Luis Campos for their sole score.

Uruguay, playing on a poorly prepared pitch, still managed to show skilful play and 33-year-old striker Francescoli converted the best of them.

He started the eventual scoring more the centre circle.

Fonseca took the ball down the left before floating the ball into the area. Francescoli took the ball on his chest with back to goal, twisted and shot first time just inside the right hand post.

Paraguay lacked a visible game plan as twice World Cup winners Uruguay controlled the match during the first half. But both sides had problems keeping their footing on a badly turfed pitch marked by huge divots.

Francescoli, former Cagliari and Torino striker, had another shot from the edge of the box on target, but Paraguay keeper Ruben Diaz got his fingertips to it and put it round the post.

Uruguay brought in Milan's Ruben Sosa on at half-time to give extra punch up front.

But Uruguay hardly needed it as they continued their first half domination.

Fonseca nearly scored midway through the second period, but his left-foot volley hit first time was smothered by keeper Diaz.

Minutes later coach Hector Nunez and home supporters had a scare as Francescoli turned his ankle and was stretchered off the pitch.

While Francescoli was still having treatment, Sergio Martinez, a leading scorer in the Argentinian league, came on as substitute for Fonseca.

Paraguay took advantage of the shake-up in Uruguay's ranks to force their best chance of the match. Carlos Gamarras looping header hit the crossbar with the keeper well beaten.

Francescoli returned for a few moments, but, with his ankle still bothering him, was replaced by Marcelo Saralegui for a scrappy last 20 minutes.

Nunez had urged home fans to be patient in the early matches, but his caution proved unnecessary as they now top Group A with the maximum six points from two games.

Uruguay beat Venezuela 4-1 in their opening match on Wednesday on their way to a possible 11th Copa America title. Paraguay, who beat Mexico 2-1 in their first match, are also set to qualify.

Meanwhile, in the other match, Mexico went ahead in the 41st minute.

Luis Garcia hit a well-timed pass to Espinoza, who ran into the box before Jesus Vilbuena clipped his ankle for a clear spot kick.

Sampras and Graf defy winds of change

LONDON (R) — At first glance, Wimbledon '95 was an almost exact replica of Wimbledon '93. Pete Sampras won the men's singles title, Steffi Graf collected the women's crown and not a drop of rain was recorded during the fortnight.

Sampras, as he did two years ago, won in four sets, while Graf won a third-set thriller just as she had on the same centre court against Jana Novotna 24 months earlier.

Even those men's doubles experts Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde prompted a sense of *deja vu*, winning their title for a third straight year to emulate that other great Australian pairing John Newcombe and Tony Roche.

The similarities also extended to the British crowds who still seem as reluctant as ever to take Sampras to their hearts, preferring instead to encourage losing men's finalist Boris Becker to do a lap of honour.

It was Sampras's third title, not to mention Graf's sixth, but lurking just beneath the surface were unmistakable signs not everything in the tennis world is as cosy as it appears.

The latter rounds disguised the issues but the perennial problems of dominant big servers amongst the men and a lack of depth amongst the women still remain.

Andre Agassi's semifinal defeat by Becker ensured the tournament was again at the mercy of the power merchants, the only blow for the defence being Goran Ivanisevic's defeat to Sampras in the semifinal despite serving 38 aces.

Heavier balls designed to slow the game down made little apparent difference and the men's locker-room had a worrying glimpse of the future in the shape of Belgian Dick Norman, another giant to be reckoned with on grass.

Graf's semifinal against Novotna and final against Arantxa Sanchez Vicario were fine examples of women's tennis at its best, but they did follow heavy diet of one-sided contests.

All four to seeds in the men's and women's singles progressed safely to the semifinals in both events for the first time in Wimbledon history, but Sanchez Vicario argues the tournament was a turning point on the women's side.

"I think it means a lot for women's tennis and shows it is improving. There has been a lot of talking in the past ... it's good for us."

Whenever people recall this particular Wimbledon, though, the names Jeff Tarango and Murphy Jensen will not be far away.

Tarango's extraordinary outburst at umpire Bruno Rebeuh, which ended in a walkout and the official being slapped by Tarango's wife, could yet land him a lengthy suspension from the game.

Jensen, who attracted wide

attention for his 22 ... two years away from the game is not that big a deal. I wouldn't be shocked if she won it."

Seles herself summed up the situation neatly, "I think women's tennis can survive without Monica and Monica can survive without tennis," she said at the weekend.

"But we're both better off with each other."

For now, normal life goes



Boris Becker

on. Sampras has already been installed as 5-4 favourite to retain his title in 1996, with Steffi Graf 6-4 favourite to keep the women's version.

For the bookies at least, nothing changes.

Sampras wins but Muster has more money: Tennis fan Princess Diana left her only Wimbledon appearance until the final day and watched Pete Sampras beat Boris Becker in the final.

With movie star Tom Cruise sitting not far away with his actress wife Nicole Kidman, the royals did their own share of star-gazing.

Princess Michael spotted

the top gun star in the crowd and passed the word to the others in the royal box. Princess Diana bent forward and lowered her sunglasses to get a better look at the couple.

Other guests in the royal box included Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee; the U.S. ambassador to Britain, Admiral William J. Crowe Jr., and the German ambassador, Dr. Juergen Oesterheld.

*** Wimbledon sizzles again:** The temperature on centre court for the men's final on the last day of the tournament was 95 degrees (35 C) as Wimbledon enjoyed one of its sunniest ever tournaments.

The players have not decided whether she should be granted a joint number one ranking for an initial period of potentially six months and Navratilova, for one, is unimpressed.

"The players are not willing to give back to her what they gained from her absence," she said.

"Monica might say forget it, I'll go in as a wild card. I wouldn't blame her one bit if she said she didn't want any special considerations."

Navratilova would also not be surprised if Seles answered all her critics at the U.S. Open.

"She's 22 ... two years away from the game is not that big a deal. I wouldn't be shocked if she won it."

Seles herself summed up the situation neatly, "I think women's tennis can survive without Monica and Monica can survive without tennis," she said at the weekend.

"But we're both better off with each other."

*** Nervous Beckers:** Boris Becker knew there were at least four people more nervous than he was on Centre Court when he faced Petri Sampras in the Wimbledon final.

They were his wife, Barbara, who spent much of the match with her eyes closed or with her head in her hands, his parents, who rarely smiled, and his older sister, Sabine.

"She gets real nervous, too," the former three-time champion said after his 6-7 (7-5), 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 loss to Sampras.

*** Arantxa gains consolation win:** Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, beaten in the Wimbledon women's singles final by Steffi Graf, gained quick compensation winning the women's doubles final.

They were his wife, Barbara, who spent much of the match with her eyes closed or with her head in her hands, his parents, who rarely smiled, and his older sister, Sabine.

"She gets real nervous, too," the former three-time champion said after his 6-7 (7-5), 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 loss to Sampras.

Playing alongside Czech Jana Novotna, beaten by Graf in the semi-finals, they beat top-seeds and defending champions Gigi Fernandez of

Spain and Barbara Hingis of Switzerland.

*** Tour de France:** Indurain

to seize y

PARIS (AFP) — Olympique

Marseille bought five or six

matches a season in their

five-year reign in French

football, the disgraced club's

former general manager

Jean-Pierre Bernes has told

fraud investigators. France

Soir newspaper reported on

Monday.

Bernes has allegedly told

examining magistrate Pierre

Philippon that 30 million

francs (six million dollars)

spent on buying match

referees, coaches or players

from 1989 to 1993.

However, fraud squad in-

vestigators said in 1994 that

80 million francs (16 million

dollars) could not be ac-

counted for in the Olympique

Marseille books.

Former club owner Ber-

nard Tapie denied the allega-

tions and threatened to sue.

The 51-year-old Tapie is

appealing against a two year

jail term, one year sus-

ped, for ordering Bernes

to fix a match against Valen-

cines in 1993 which clin-

ched Marseille's fifth consecu-

tive league title.

Marseille beat AC Milan

1-0 in the European Cup

Final five days later but were

barred from defending their

title and later demoted to the

French second division when

they went into receivership.

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A8 ♦72 ♦J8643 ♦AKQ
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 Pass 1 Pass 1 Pass
2 Pass 3 Pass 1 NT
What do you bid now?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A92 ♦84 ♦AK10765
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦Pass 1 ♦Pass 1 ♦Pass
2 ♦Pass 3 ♦Pass 1 NT
What action do you take?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A8 ♦72 ♦J8643 ♦AKQ
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 Pass 1 Pass 1 Pass
2 Pass 3 Pass 1 NT
What do you bid now?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A92 ♦84 ♦AK10765
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦Pass 1 ♦Pass 1 ♦Pass
2 Pass 3 Pass 1 NT
What action do you take?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable as South you hold:
♦A8 ♦72 ♦J8643 ♦AKQ
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 Pass 1 Pass 1 Pass
2 Pass 3 Pass

Sports

Al Faisali win 9th Jordan Cup

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Faisali Monday won their fourth consecutive and record ninth Jordan Cup when they upset Al Ramtha 4-0 in the final match of the competition held at Petra Stadium in Al Hussein Youth City.

Al Ramtha were bidding for the country's second most important soccer title after finishing in the runner up position for the past two years. However, the country's top striker, Jiryes Tadros, completed a hat-trick in the second half while teammate Ja'far Hammadi added another goal to seal their team's win in the 16th Jordan Cup.

Al Ramtha were the title-holders in 1990. The other final round qualifiers were Al Hussein who clinched their first major title when they won the 1994 Federation Shield and Al Arabi who have a modest record and were the winners in 1986.

In the final round, Al Ramtha had crushed Al Arabi 6-0, while Al Faisali also beat Al Arabi 2-0 and had a goalless draw with Al Hussein.

Twenty eight teams from the first division and the Premier League entered the Jordan Cup Cup. The most surprising result was Premier League champions Al Wihdat's elimination by Al Bagha.

Jordan Cup record (Runners up in brackets)
 1980 Faisali (Bagha)
 1981 Faisali (Ramtha)
 1982 Wihdat (Ahl)
 1983 Faisali (Ramtha)
 1984 Jazireh (Ahl)
 1985 Wihdat (Faisali)
 1986 Arabi (Jazireh)
 1987 Faisali (Hussein)
 1988 Wihdat (Faisali)
 1989 Faisali (Ramtha)
 1990 Ramtha (Hussein)
 1991 Ramtha (Wihdat)
 1992 Faisali (Wihdat)
 1993 Faisali (Ramtha)
 1994 Faisali (Ramtha)



Paul Gascoigne (left) and David Platt in an England match (file photo).

Gascoigne completes move to Rangers

GLASGOW (AFP) — Paul Gascoigne returned to British football in the biggest-ever deal involving a Scottish club when he completed his 4.3 million pounds move (about seven million dollars) to Scottish Champions Glasgow Rangers from Italian club Lazio on Monday.

Gazza-mania greeted the 28-year-old injury-plagued England midfielder when he arrived to a huge welcome at Ibrox Stadium with a couple of thousand Rangers' fans turning out to salute their club's new signing.

The deal is the biggest ever by a Scottish club and a statement of European Cup intent by Ibrox chairman David Murray and manager Walter Smith.

Gascoigne admitted: "I knew Rangers was a very big club and the ground is already a sell-out every week but seeing this kind of welcome excites me."

"I trained with the lads this morning and I'm already very excited about this move."

"I've followed some great England players who've

come here before like Ray Wilkins, Chris Woods and Terry Butcher and the current team is full of international players," he added.

Gascoigne insists half a dozen pre-season games will help tune him up for a European Cup preliminary round with Rangers on August 9.

"I've come here to enjoy my football. That is what it is all about. I don't know how many games it will take for me to feel fully fit but we have seven or eight pre-season ones coming up. I hope that will be enough."

Rangers' manager Smith said: "I feel Paul's type of midfield player will be of great benefit to us and that's why I wanted to sign him."

Chairman Murray said: "We did well in a European Cup three years ago and have suffered disappointments in the past two seasons."

That is where our ambitions lie but we also want to win 10 titles in a row in Scotland. We are delighted to sign Paul and we have a lot of belief in him."

Gascoigne becomes Rangers' club record signing with the 4.3 million pound fee exceeding the four million pounds paid two years ago to Dundee United for Duncan Ferguson, now of Everton.

Gazza will leave with Rangers for a three-match tour of Denmark at the end of the week and is likely to make his debut against Brondby on July 21.

Home fans will see him take his Ibrox bow at the Rangers International Tournament on July 29-30 when his former club Tottenham are among the visitors.

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Tour de France

Indurain beats clock to seize yellow jersey

SERAING, Belgium (R) — Tour de France king Miguel Indurain moved a step closer to an unprecedented fifth consecutive tour triumph when he won Sunday's crucial eighth stage, an individual time-trial, to capture the overall lead.

Former race leader Bjarne Riis of Denmark came close to staging a major upset when he clocked the fastest time after 49 kilometres. But he was exhausted when he reached the final climb and ended the stage in second place 12 seconds slower than Indurain.

Indurain had sounded a warning with a brilliant ride in Saturday's seventh stage to Liege, breaking away with Bruyneel to take second place and climb eight places up to second overall.

While not quite as devastating as his previous per-

formances in time trials, Indurain's masterful display on Sunday was good enough to give him control before Monday's rest day and the tough Alpine stages which follow.

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All eyes were on world hour record holder Tooy Rominger of Switzerland, regarded as one of the few men capable of depriving Indurain of victory in Paris, but he 34-year-old veteran could do no better than third, 58 seconds behind the Spaniard.

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Arsenal land Platt for \$7.58 million

LONDON (AFP) — England captain David Platt ended months of speculation about his future on Monday when he joined Arsenal in a 4.75 million pound (about \$7.5 million) move from Italian giants Sampdoria.

The Gunners' new manager Bruce Rioch cut short a holiday in Portugal and rushed to Italy to sign the 29-year-old midfielder.

Rioch will now team Platt with his other big Italian import, Dennis Bergkamp, the Dutch striker he bought for 7.5 million pounds from Inter Milan just three weeks ago.

Monday's deal ends a four-year spell in Italy for Platt who was considering a new two-year offer to stay at Sampdoria — a decision closely monitored by a host of top English clubs including champions Blackburn and his former club Manchester United.

But the former Aston Villa star jumped at Arsenal's offer when Rioch made it clear much he was wanted at Highbury.

Platt said: "Everything has happened far more quickly than I had anticipated mainly because Arsenal made it clear that they really wanted me."

"My talks with Bruce Rioch were exceptional. He hit off straight away. He is a great communicator with some exciting ideas on tactics and a definite view on how sees my fitting into his plans."

Rioch said: "I'm delighted to sign a player of David's calibre. I have admired him for a long time and through these discussions with him I have been very impressed by his knowledge, ambition and desire."

Platt had talks with Sampdoria's captain Roberto Mancini holidaying in the same Sardinian village about the promising young players that were coming through but Rioch's talks ended his indecision.

Sampdoria have indulged in a major clear out after their disappointing season failing to clinch a place in Europe. Their gamble on ex-changing Italian first choice goalkeeper Gian Luca Pagica to Inter Milan for the ageing talents of his predecessor Walter Zenga and Italia 90 central defender Riccardo Ferri failed to pay dividends.

Career details of David Platt

* 1991: Lasts just 17 minutes of FA Cup final after rupturing cruciate knee ligaments in reckless challenge on Nottingham Forest's Gary Charles. Injury holds up move to Italian Club Lazio and career appears in fresh doubt after further surgery following injuries sustained in a night club fight back home in Newcastle.

* 1992: Finally completes 5.5 million pound move to Lazio after passing stringent medical and makes Serie A debut against Genoa in Rome.

* 1993: Provokes outrage by belching into a TV microphone when asked how he feels about being dropped by his Italian club. Disappointing display against San Marino prompts manager Graham Taylor to speculate that Gazza may have a "refuelling problem". Reports back to Lazio after summer heavyweight.

* 1994: Breaks a leg in training ground accident, putting him out of play for a year. Spills up with fiancee Sheryl Kyle and later admits to having hit her.

1995: Lazio fans give him a standing ovation as he makes his long-awaited.

Comeback but club make it clear they are happy to let him leave — sparking the interest of several clubs in Britain.

First England appearance for 15 months in 2-1 win over Japan at Wembley.

Signs for Rangers in July for club-record 4.3 million.

Crewe Alexandra

league games for Villa. * 1992: Becomes Britain's most expensive footballer by moving from Bari to Juventus for 6.5 million pounds. Scored 12 goals in 28 Serie A matches for Bari but failed to prevent them being relegated.

* 1993: Captains England for first time against San Marino at Wembley and scores four goals in 6-0 win.

* 1994: Re-appointed England captain by Terry Venables following his appointment as national coach.

Scores 24 goals in his 50th international in 1-0 victory over Nigeria at Wembley.

* 1995: Joins Arsenal after scoring 50 goals in 121

Major League Results

NEW YORK (R) — Results on Major League Baseball games played on Sunday (home team in caps)

National League		
Chicago	7	

Serbs attack safe areas; France offers U.N. help

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serbs attacked two U.N. safe areas in eastern Bosnia on Monday in defiance of a U.N. call to cease its attacks on the Srebrenica enclave or face possible airstrikes, U.N. officials said.

France offered combat helicopters to the U.N. force in Bosnia to come to the aid of beleaguered Dutch peacekeepers in Srebrenica where Bosnian Serb tanks and infantry threaten the safe area.

Thirty Dutch troops armed with heavy machine guns and anti-armour weaponry have been deployed with four armoured personnel carriers to block the main southern approach road leading into Srebrenica in western Bosnia.

The U.N. has issued an ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs whose tanks are just 500 metres away, stating that North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) warplanes will be called in if the peacekeepers are attacked.

The Serbs were also asked to cease their offensive on the enclave and release 30 Dutch peacekeepers seized over the weekend as Serb infantry pushed deep into the pocket.

Despite this warning, Serb forces continued to shell the town Monday and kept up sporadic mortar and heavy machine gun fire on another U.N. designated safe area, the nearby government-held enclave of Zepa.

Bosnian radio reported seven dead in Monday's shelling of Srebrenica and government officials said 21 people had been seriously

wounded in Zepa. Mortar explosions close to a U.N. compound in the town caused no injuries.

"If repeated, sustained and systematic attacks" continue, "it will lead us to consider the option of using NATO air power in this instance as well," said U.N. Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward.

The warning was repeated by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, who held a weekend meeting with top U.N. military commanders and civilian officials.

"According to the mandate of the United Nations we are ready in case of need to use the air force with the cooperation of NATO," Dr. Ghali said. "The mandate we have received is to protect different enclaves."

But Bosnian government officials showed increasing frustration with the ineffectiveness of U.N. forces to protect the so-called "safe area."

Hajrudin Avdic, a Srebrenica city official, issued a veiled threat, saying that if U.N. troops do not intervene in Srebrenica, he could not "guarantee their security on these territories." He warned that Dutch peacekeepers in the enclave might be blocked.

"If a slaughter happens to us, I don't think they (peacekeepers) would get by so easily," he said.

A Dutch patrol travelling in an armoured personnel carrier to the west of the town was attacked Monday by Bosnian government troops with small arms and grenades. The badly dam-

aged vehicle veered off the road, but the crew were not seriously hurt and were rescued by another Dutch unit, Col. Coward reported.

The government-held northeastern Tuzla, meanwhile, up to 100 refugees from Srebrenica gathered outside a U.N. base and warned they would block the compound unless U.N. soldiers stopped Serb attacks on their hometown and returned to their observation posts.

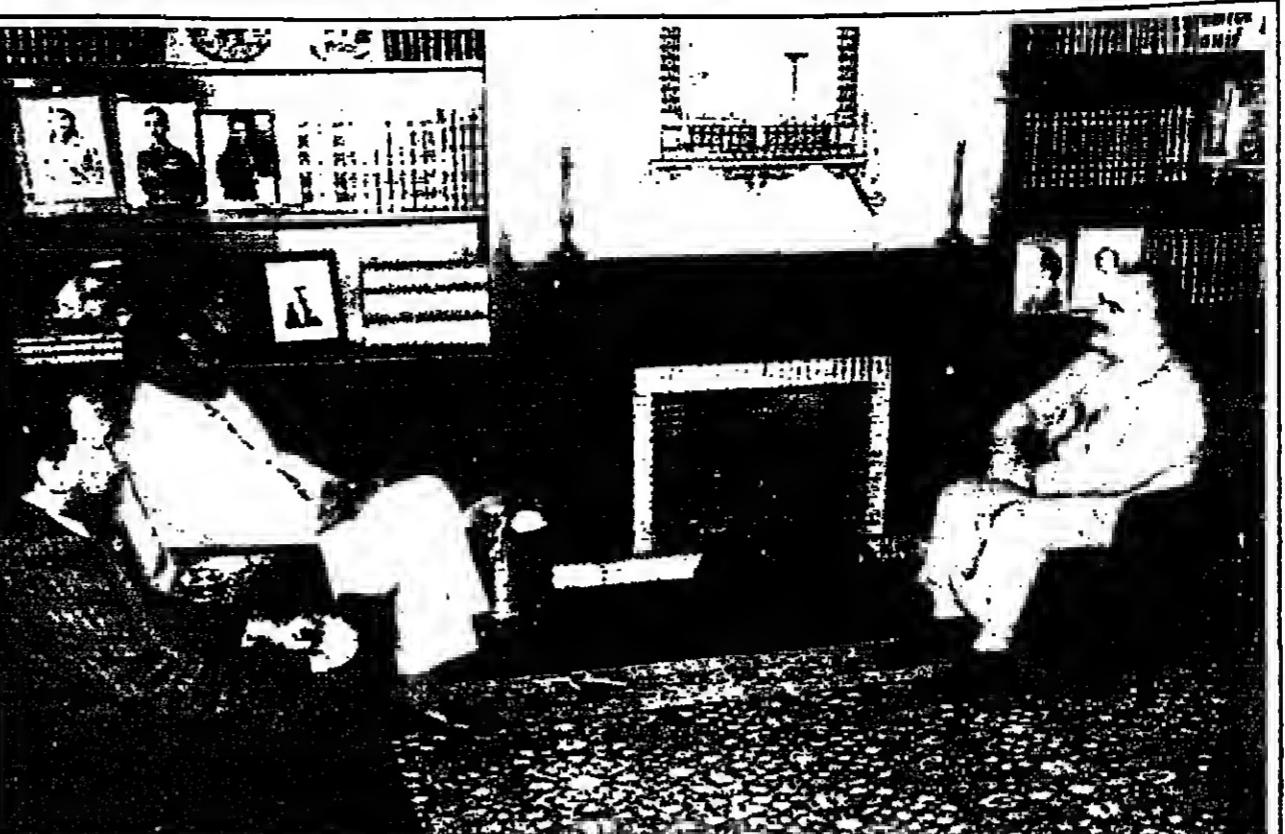
For their part, rebel Serbs failed to respond Monday to U.N. demands to release the detained peacekeepers and withdraw from positions they captured inside the Srebrenica enclave since Thursday, when the Serb offensive began.

Twenty peacekeepers were taken to Serb-held Bratunac, north of the Srebrenica enclave, and 10 were in a Serb-held village to the south. Col. Coward said the United Nations was in radio contact with all the detained soldiers.

The aid agency Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), which has international staff in Srebrenica, said the town's hospital had reached "saturation point" caring for some 50 wounded civilians 10 of whom had since died. Several limbs amputated.

A statement issued in Paris by MSF said local medical teams were working non-stop to cope with the influx of injured. Most of the injuries were caused by shrapnel, MSF said.

U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) officials condemned Monday's attacks.



SUDANESE MESSAGE: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassen, the Regent, on Monday receives Sudanese Minister of State Mahdi Ibrahim (centre), who delivered to him a message from President Omar Hassan Al Bashir to His

Majesty King Hussein, in a meeting attended by Sudanese Ambassador to Jordan Ali Abdul Rahman Numeiri (see page one) (Petra photo)

Israeli shelling injures 2 in Lebanon

TYRE (Agencies) — Heavy Israeli artillery fire wounded two young girls on Monday as dozens of shells rained on villages in Southern Lebanon, police said.

The two girls were hurt in the area of Zibqin facing the western edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone" along the two countries' border.

Two teenaged sisters were killed on Saturday when an internationally banned darts shell fired by Israeli tanks slammed into their house in Nabatiyeh, also north of the occupied zone. Five people were wounded.

U.N. spokesman in Lebanon Timor Gukel said the Israeli daily Ma'ariv that at least one cluster bomb banned under the Geneva Convention had been used in Saturday's attack.

He said U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali had been informed.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin criticised Saturday's attack as "superficial."

The Arab League strongly condemns the continued flagrant attacks on south Lebanon, which are a clear violation of all Security Council resolutions," it said in a statement.

The league said continued Israeli attacks would endanger the Middle East peace process.

It urged the United States and Russia, which are cosponsors of the peace negotiators, "to pressure Israel and force it to stop its military operations in South Lebanon."

In retaliation, about 30 Katyusha rockets fired by guerrillas fell on Israel's Galilee region on Sunday, forcing Jewish communities into bomb shelters for a second night.

The rockets fell in fields in western Galilee and caused an injury or damage. Israeli gunners fired back at Hizbullah positions in South Lebanon, military officials said.

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